

# The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

## Blue and White Soldiers on Duty

A boy of young nurses in blue and white uniforms, bright-eyed, fresh and smiling, were gathered on the steps of the house where they have their Richmond home.

An elderly woman, passing the house, paused for a moment to admire the group. "How pretty you look!" she said, "and how ready for service! You might be young soldiers, going out to conquer the world."

"No," answered one of the nurses, "we are going on duty instead at the hospital." And they passed on, buoyant of step, health and strength apparent in every movement.

The woman who had paused also continued her walk. "Going on duty," she murmured to herself, thinking that the girls behind her were but the type of all other clear-eyed and active types of womanhood, constantly seen at posts assigned them in the many varying departments of practical and professional life the world over.

And then, coming back to the special idea of the hospital nurse's profession, she thought of the here was soldiering indeed, and that the women who entered the ranks of the nursing army were forever contending for life against death on the battlefield where pain and disease did their deadly work.

The simple words "going on duty" were used to cover all the care and the watching, all the weariness and the waiting, all the sense of loss and defeat when a feeble flame of existence burnt lower and lower and then flickered out; all the sense of joy in the awakening of returning health and vigor, under the ministrations that had healing in their touch.

Not to the strains of music and the thunder of guns in the battle of the blue and white army carried on. But in darkened rooms, beside pain-racked forms, often under discouragement and with lack of intelligent co-operation, the soldiers do their part by heartening the dependent, showing infinite patience to the querulous, soothing tired nerves and pointing out the way back to health to those who have sought and failed to find it unaided.

Heroes on national battlefields are awarded crosses of honor, and their deeds are heralded in song and story. But the blue and white soldiers, brave and constant though they may be, win no such recognition. Their reward must be the consciousness of having infused fresh courage and spirit into some battered wreck of humanity, of having sent other soldiers back into a different fray, who undoubtedly would have laid down their arms, of being the reserve force back of a world's advance line and of supplying a consciousness of instant support, when such support is needed.

The blue and white soldiers do not thus always receive merited appreciation. But they can afford to forgive ingratitude, because, more than any other, their position tends to make them so devoid of selfishness that they fight, not to reap reward or applause, but simply for the uplift of themselves, in the uplift of all humanity dependent upon them.

From Cupid's Fair Weather Book.

For January—"I am resolved that I will mend my ways and swear henceforth to be a water-man."

For February—"Now forth to fish goes good St. Valentine, and bails his gentle hook with tender wishes."

For March—"I speed my parting hat with futile damn as my umbrella turneth inside out."

For April—"The ever-gaining sun predicts a rise in summer's stock to-day."

For May—"With her tall twin brothers, May appears."

For June—"The crusty crab, for love of June's sweet tooth, lays down his life and doffs his armored shell."

For August—"Behold your Queen in virgin majesty, the summer girl, who sits on August's throne."

For October—"Summer, dying, smiles upon her pyre of maples fanned to flame by autumn's breath."

Thought in the Beginning.

The aim of every woman is to have her home as attractive and beautiful and home-like as possible, and to have an atmosphere restful and inviting. One of the chief requisites in gaining this end is simplicity.

Simplicity of furnishing, however, must not be confounded with bareness. It means fundamentally good lines, with beauty and harmony of color and arrangement, a true instinct for the fitness of the room, and a heart in the heart in weeding out one's possessions. This last necessity is the big fault of many an otherwise attractive home. You must eliminate, eliminate, eliminate; you must get up with the lark to keep ahead of the souvenirs and useless presents that accumulate so fast, and you must turn an unseeing eye to the shops full of unneeded ornaments. There is a deal of truth in what some one wittily said about buying a vase: "Buy it only after much meditation and prayer." We all have known what it is to regret money spent on the spur of the moment for something which proved a white elephant on our hands. Thought in the beginning will save waste in the end.

The Dinner Hostess.

The woman who contemplates a dinner should never undertake more than she is sure she can accomplish without overstrain; for a dinner is strict in its etiquette, and liberties cannot be taken with it as with other social affairs.

The first of her duties is the selection of her guests. It is not enough that they are all clever and well bred. There should be a measure of congeniality between them, a degree of fitness in bringing them together.

The menu, too, is of prime importance. The hostess must plan to have enough and not too much; to be sure that every item will be as nearly perfect as possible; that there shall be nothing served that the cook is not equal to preparing satisfactorily; that there are to be no innovations introduced in the service of the meal, but that all shall go as by clockwork.

The dinner may begin with oysters or clams or grapefruit or fruit cocktail, or with some such appetizer as caviar or an omelet or a can of corn, or a similar dish. After this comes a first course.



SMART MODELS FOR DEMI-TAILED COSTUMES.

L'Art de la Mode.

## Some Fashion Features.

### Some Fashion Features Noted Are a Predominance of Navy Blue and White.

In costumes, the favorite combination is often blue with white. Otherwise there is the prevalence of fringes as trimming, the contrast in material as well as color between the skirt and overhanging tunic, the slashed skirt with different colored underskirt, the closely wrapped skirt, the three-quarter sleeve, the fingerless waists in shirt style, with double frills and full-length sleeves, finished off with a frill falling over the hand.

**Side Frill Favorite.** The side frill or one-sided jabot is still the favorite, and is seen on coats, on lingerie waists, and on full-length dresses, of which there are quite a number. It is quite positive that a large number of the afternoon gowns and dressy costumes are similarly adorned, because fashion dictates the side frill shall appear wherever it may be appropriately applied. Even the peasant blouse is now either slashed or laid into a deep tuck to afford the insertion of the fashionable side frill or jabot. These frills are often quite enormous, and sometimes cover the entire front of a waist.

**Fox Fashionable Fur.** Fox promises to be a fashionable fur next season. A large number of crepe de chine scarfs edged in fur are shown, and these will, no doubt, be in strong vogue for early fall wear.

Since the lace and ribbon muffs were so strongly featured about during the past season, it is not surprising to see a few crepe de chine muffs edged with fur to match the scarf.

**Fashion Oddities.** The way to amuse a child that is tired of an old toy is to show it a new one. Shrewd Fashion is now doing this for her tired followers. She is dangling oddities in dress before them. Already they are sitting up and taking notice. Before long they will grasp and run off with all these new ideas, and the Lord only knows how far they will run. Give the average woman a dress suggestion and she will construct a whole wardrobe from it. What, then, are some of the things which Paris offers to the women who are seeking for things new?

Marie Antoinette's fobus of the most exquisite of laces and the most tissue-like of muffs, so deep that the bodice seems all fobus.

Robes of rich lace mounted over satin and finished with the most ornate looking of linen fringes.

Shawl Overalls. Overshirts fashioned of a silk crepe shawl, with a fringed border, and draped so that one point comes in

## The Fabric Bag

The heavily embroidered fabric bag is a great favorite this season; in fact, it is so much used that it is quite crowding out the bag of leather and suede. These fabric bags are easily made. The smartest of them are of the same material as the dress with which they are carried, and are embroidered to match the design and coloring of the trimming on the dress. These bags are finished with cord handles so long that, when they are swung over the shoulder, which, by the way, is the newest way of carrying them, they reach to the knees.

In considering dress accessories, careful thought should be given to veils. Lace veils, spider-web veils, silk Shal-land veils, will all be worn a great deal this season.

**The Old-Fashioned Knot.** Fine needle-workers seldom use the old-fashioned knot. Its unnecessary stitches have been condemned except for hatbands, gathering, the sewing on of buttons, and, occasionally, for flannels.

Three tiny backstitches, one upon the other, making the beginning stitches exactly like the finishing-off stitches. The result is very satisfactory.

**Sewing On Buttons.** Buttons should be sewed on so that the stitches will run with the warp and woof of the material. Where there are four holes in a button, the button can be placed so that the holes are vertical and perfectly balanced. Then make two sets of upright parallel stitches on the face of the button; the button can be placed with the holes in diamond shape. In this latter case, in order to have the stitches follow the warp and woof of the material, the stitches must be made from the upper to the lower hole and from side to side, thus making a straight cross on the face of the button.

**Grape Catsup.** Will be quite as satisfactory made from grapes lightly underripe. Pick over, wash, drain and remove stems from grapes. Put in a preserving-kettle, add cold water to barely cover, bring to the boiling point, and let simmer until the fruit is soft; then press through a sieve, discarding skins and seeds. Put ten pounds of the fruit pulp in a preserving kettle and add five pounds of sugar, two quarts of vinegar, one tablespoonful of cinnamon, one tablespoonful of allspice, two tablespoonfuls of cloves and one grated nutmeg. Bring to the boiling point and let simmer until reduced to the consistency of a catsup. Fill bottles with sterilized, adjust stoppers, and seal.

## Discreet Traveling Costume.

### The Woman Who Desires to Present a Smart Appearance in Traveling, Will Find That—

those who are neither refuse to admit the fact or to accept the consequences.

**On the Subject of Lace.** On the subject of lace it may be said that it is more worn than ever; coarse Milanese, coarse and fine Venise, Mechlin, Chantilly, Flanders and Irish. One may see them all mingled together, three and four and five kinds of lace on the one dress. Now is the time for bringing out all the lace laid by in wardrobes, as one need not fear giving a look of patchwork by their juxtaposition on gowns. The following model by Martail at Armand proves this truth.

A princess of Venice over white tulle, forming a tunic down to the knees and falling over a second flounce of tulle Cluny, which, in turn, falls over a third flounce of tulle Venise. The lower part of the short sleeves, as well as the back panel, which starts at the waist and reaches the ground, is in black Chantilly. What strikes one as marvelous in this dress is that it appears at the same time very simple yet extremely rich.

**Effective Border Design.** An effective design that can be adapted to various-sized borders merely by increasing the size of the scrolls can easily be drawn without a pattern.

Make a series of large S's, connected by making an extra curve from the inner point of S, bringing it up to form the lower curve up the next S above and below.

To work these scrolls have the connecting line from the bulged part of each letter traced on each side with oval sections like laurel leaves conventionalized. These are outlined or can be done in satin stitch into the central vein. The rest of the scrolls are made entirely of detached eyelets of equal size and rather small.

**Use of Tulle and Batiste.** One of the quaint combinations of the season is the use of white or colored batiste and black or colored tulle. The tulle is of the new dull kind which is as soft as satin and the batiste may be plain or covered with eyelid embroidery. The silk is used as hem, as half of the sleeves, as a giraffe with cash ends and sometimes as revers.

**Width of Skirts Increasing.** There is a slight but decided tendency towards lengthening the skirts and widening them as a consequent movement towards drapery.

The Queen of England disapproved of the narrow skirts, because it hindered the curtsy, or, at any rate, rendered its effect ungraceful, and since then more width has been allowed. The change is just perceptible, and, though coming slowly as yet, it is coming. Narrow skirts will die out reluctantly, because they are becoming to youthful, well-made women, while

## The Homely Girl and Dowdy Woman

The homely girl in early and constantly improved with the idea of her plain appearance, so that she looks out upon the world from a discouraged viewpoint. Her sisters, cousins and aunts, to be sure, of her little brothers and nieces, have left with her no illusions concerning herself. And after all the homely girl need not be so unattractive. It only she will cease thinking of herself as being such, and take a pride in her looks and what she wears. She should cultivate pride, which, upon her mental attitude acts like a tonic.

Repression and severe snubbing generally leave her slow in development. She should cultivate herself with an ambition to reach some fine ideal that she sets up within reach of her soul vision. It will be a great help to improvement even of her outward appearance, which, after all, is but a reflection of the inner nature.

In so far as her clothes are concerned, she should avoid neutral shades and dark tints, should wear hats with decided lines and a face with a color which would certainly be becoming to such a wearer as the plain girl would like to be; to such a girl as she herself will be eventually, if she will only have faith in her possibilities.

For instance, she should take an inventory of her personal assets, and if she has just one good point, she should exert herself to make much of that point. If there are dull-gold lights in her brown hair she should brush her tresses until the dull gold turns to sunshine.

The homely girl should be the personification of neatness, for an immaculate personality is always agreeable and good to look upon. The world expects becoming and faultless dress, in so far as freshness and neatness are concerned, from every girl. It has come to be a mark of the dignity and power of her sex.

The homely girl who does not take herself seriously in hand is apt to develop into a dowdy woman, who says she doesn't care and is too indifferent to realize where her dress faults begin and end.

It is all right if the dowdy woman even, can be prodded out of her apathy and forced to consider the fine example set by the grande dames of the ancient regime, when they put on their richest costumes to ride on a tumble to the guillotine. They knew that whatever the circumstances or trials of a woman's life might be, it is most fittingly approached in proper dress.

With an appropriateness of dress comes an appropriateness of manner and bearing, an ease producing the unconscious effect which is the best. The becomingness of attire will be added to by a becomingness of spirit, so that not only will her advantages outweigh her disadvantages in other minds, but she herself will be lifted beyond the despondency produced by the drawbacks of ugliness and dowdiness.

**A Shandean Luncheon.** This luncheon succeeded in stimulating the minds as well as the appetites of the guests, who, when all were assembled, confessed themselves in the dark as to what a Shandean Luncheon might be, but the conversation from "Thistram Shandy," which was given on each place-card, threw some light on the subject. "How many Caesars and Pompeys have been rendered worthy of them? And how many are there who might have done exceeding well in the world, had not their character and spirits been totally depressed and Nicodemus'd into nothing?" The place-cards were sheets of note-paper; Walter Shandy's words were on the first page; on the second was the familiar question and answer, "What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet"; the third bore a quotation from Stevenson—"To the best of my belief, Mr. Shandy is the first who fairly pointed out the incalculable influence of nomenclature"; and the fourth gave Solomon's opinion, "A good name is better than precious ointment."

**The Guessing Contest.** As the luncheon wore on, the guests were asked to guess the ingredients, and then write appropriate and original names for the dishes.

When the demi-tasse were brought in, the menus were read aloud, a prize was awarded to the author of the one voted by acclamation to be the best, and the dishes composed for the occasion will always bear these names. A photograph of Robert Louis Stevenson was the prize, since it was his essay, "The Philosophy of Nomenclature," that the hostess owed her inspiration.

**In Frosting and Decorating.** Foilage is best made of citron thinly sliced. The dark-green outside makes attractive leaves, though all may be cut from the inside. The little candies used to advantage. The little candies for the flowers may sometimes be procured at small shops, though the greatest variety can be bought of a dealer in confectioners' supplies; also the little silver-like dragees, which are so ornamental. The flowers are made on a basis of angelica, cut with a pen-knife into thin shavings. Work with the hands into small balls, then flatten into lozenge shapes, which make a sticky foundation on which the candied leaves and violets may also be used. The cake is sometimes decorated with daisies and chrysanthemums. The baskets holding the daisies are formed of little yellow candies made on a foundation of angelica. The ribbon bow which ties the flowers together is made of ornamental frosting. The little disks are made of angelica shaped in half-spheres, dipped in the white of egg and then in the dragees, and the conventional decorations are put on by dipping the angelica in the frosting. To make it, put one-half cupful of hot water in a bowl and add confectioners' sugar gradually, until the mixture is of the right consistency to spread. Flavor with one tea-spoonful of vanilla.

**Apply Common Sense to Work.** "A young girl, with a knowledge of bookkeeping gained at the local High School, wanted to help her mother make both ends meet, but she was not strong enough to take a position. She helped to pay the family butcher-bill by assisting up the chickens—counts every evening. It wasn't much, but it was better than buying an 'outfit' for selling something which she could not possibly sell.

"If you can make good bread, try to make more of it, even if the task is monotonous. You can tell it to an exclusive family trade wearing of bake-shop stuff. And it easier to take 10 cents for a small loaf of home-made bread, 20 cents a dozen for the 'short of biscuits' mother used to make, than to address a hundred envelopes for 5 cents, especially when no one in your city has envelopes to address by the hundred.

"Look yourself, your home, your neighbors over, and then decide what you can offer that they need. Apply common sense to your home-work and, from time to time, measure your results. Learn to estimate the sense out of your calculations and, rest assured, you will find money slipping out of your purse."